

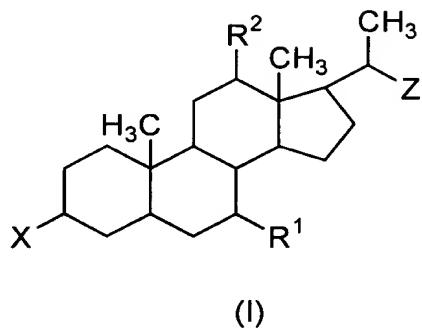
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 – 23. (Canceled)

24. (New) A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

R¹ and R² are independently hydrogen or hydroxy;

X is hydroxy;

Z is a group of the formula -M-Q^{x'}, wherein M is -CH₂CH₂C(O)-, and wherein Q^{x'} is of the following structure:

- [NR^{50'} - (CR^{51'}R^{52'})_{a'} - (CR^{53'}R^{54'})_{b'} - C(O)] - D' - OH

wherein

a' and b' are independently 0 or 1, wherein at least one of a' and b' is 1;

R^{50'} is hydrogen or R^{50'} and R^{51'} together with the atoms to which they are attached form a heterocyclyl ring;

R^{51'} is hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, substituted heterocyclyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl or R^{51'} and R^{52'}

together with the atoms to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocycl or substituted heterocycl ring, or R^{51'} and R^{53'} together with the atoms to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocycl or substituted heterocycl ring;

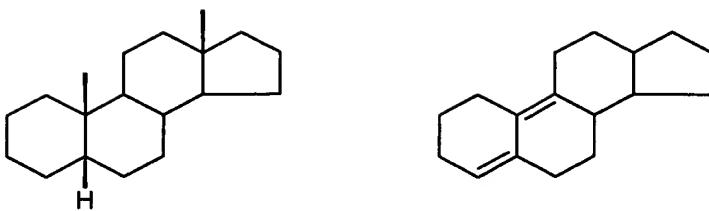
R^{52'} is hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocycl, substituted heterocycl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl or substituted heteroaryl;

R^{53'} is hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocycl, substituted heterocycl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl or R^{53'} and R^{54'} together with the atoms to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocycl or substituted heterocycl ring;

R^{54'} is hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocycl, substituted heterocycl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl or substituted heteroaryl; and

D' is a pharmacologically active chemical compound containing at least one carboxylic acid group and at least one moiety selected from the group consisting of a primary amino group, a secondary amino group or a hydroxyl group;

with the provisos that D' is not a GABA analog; L-Dopa, an L-aromatic amino acid decarboxylase inhibitor, a catechol O-methyl transferase inhibitor or derivatives thereof; a naturally occurring α-amino acid or an ester or carboxamide of a naturally occurring α-amino acid; a polypeptide derived from a linear oligopeptide containing at least 3 α-amino acids; an oligonucleotide; a cyclophane derivative, a diethylenetriaminopentaacetate derivative, or paramagnetic ion chelates thereof; 5-de-O-methylspararicin; a bis-(2-chloroethyl)amine containing nitrogen mustard; an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor; a proline hydroxylase inhibitor; or a steroid containing the carbon substructures of the following formulae:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (New) The compound according to Claim 24, wherein R¹ and R² are both α-OH; R¹ is β-OH and R² is hydrogen; R¹ is α-OH and R² is hydrogen; R¹ is hydrogen and R² is α-OH; R¹ is β-OH and R² is α-OH; or R¹ and R² are both hydrogen.

26. (New) The compound according to Claim 24, wherein -[NR^{50'} - (CR^{51'}R^{52'})_{a'} - (CR^{53'}R^{54'})_{b'} - C(O)]- is a moiety derived from a naturally occurring α-amino acid.

27. (New) The compound according to Claim 26, wherein b' is 0, and a' is 1.

28. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound according to Claim 24.